



Testimony before the House Health Policy Committee

March 24, 2015

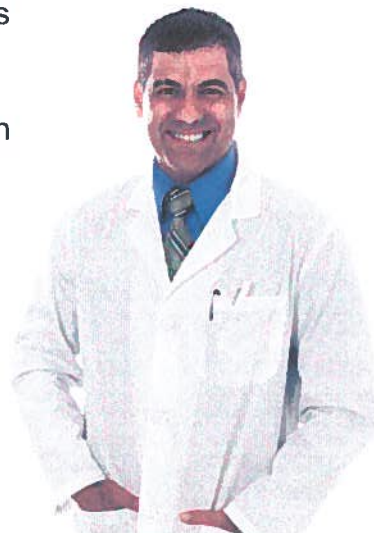
Presented on behalf of Delta Dental of Michigan

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Delta Dental of Michigan

- Established in 1957 by dentists to improve oral health in Michigan by encouraging routine preventive care through a third-party payment system
- Not-for-profit with a special mission: to improve oral health



Delta Dental of Michigan

- Headquartered in Okemos with two additional offices in Farmington Hills
- 640 employees in Michigan
- Provide coverage to 3.3 million Michigan residents
- Largest dental network in Michigan—94 percent of Michigan dentists participate in Delta Dental Premier
- ISO 9001 Quality Certified since 2002—international standard of quality and excellence



Delta Dental of Michigan

- Provide administrative services to Delta Dental Plans of Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee
- One of the 39 member companies of the Delta Dental Plans Association



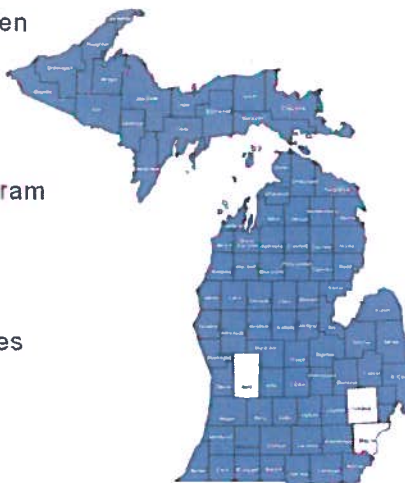
Partnerships with State of Michigan

- **Healthy Kids Dental (HKD)**

- Currently covers 550,000 children enrolled in Medicaid in 80 of Michigan's 83 counties
- Significantly improves access to dental care as compared to traditional Medicaid dental program

- **MiChild**

- Delta Dental is one of two dental carriers serving MiChild enrollees in working poor families



Partnerships with State of Michigan

- **Healthy Michigan Plan**

- Administer the dental coverage for nine Medicaid Health Plans

- **MI Health Link**

- Care coordination demonstration project for individuals enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid
- Administer the dental coverage for three MI Health Link health plans



Oral Health in Michigan and America

- Major improvements in oral health in last 50 years attributable to:
 - Availability of dental coverage
 - Better education about good dental hygiene and importance of oral health
 - Community water fluoridation
- With proper interventions, many oral health problems are preventable



Oral Health in Michigan and America

- Untreated dental disease can lead to pain, infection, tooth loss
- Gum disease increases the risk of serious medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and poor birth outcomes
- Low-income families bear a disproportionate burden of oral disease
- 80% of the disease resides in 20% of the population



Oral Health in Michigan and America

- Most common chronic childhood disease in America is tooth decay, affecting 50 percent of first-graders and 80 percent of 17-year-olds
- Michigan Department of Community Health "Count Your Smiles" 2011-2012 Survey found:
 - 27 percent of Michigan third-graders have untreated dental disease
 - In the Detroit area, the prevalence of dental disease in children was 41.9 percent
 - Children with untreated decay had average of 2.5 untreated teeth
 - 7 percent of third-graders were in immediate need of dental care with symptoms of pain, infection or swelling



Oral Health in Michigan and America



- 51 million school hours are lost annually in the US because of oral health problems
- Children who suffer from poor oral health are 12 times more likely to have restricted-activity days

Oral Health in Michigan and America

- Sugar-sweetened beverages are the largest source of added sugar in the U.S. diet
- Besides dental decay, SSB consumption is associated with obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease
- Largest consumers of SSBs are adolescents age 12–19



Oral Health in Michigan and America

- Oral Health and Pregnancy
 - Hormonal changes associated with pregnancy can impact oral health
 - Approximately 50 percent of pregnant women get “pregnancy gingivitis” (American Academy of Periodontology)
 - 2009 Delta Dental Plans Association survey: 25 percent of pregnant women didn’t see a dentist at all during pregnancy



Oral Health in Michigan and America

- Poor access to dental care = increased use of hospital emergency rooms
- Very few ERs equipped to deal with dental problems
- 2014 Anderson Economic Group Report:
 - Dental-related emergency room visit
 - Average hospital charge—\$1,103
 - Average payment—\$290
 - Dental-related inpatient hospital stay
 - Average hospital charge—\$46,174
 - Average payment—\$12,448
 - A single avoided hospitalization would pay for decades of preventative and diagnostic care



Two Key Interventions

- Sealants
 - Prevent 60% of decay at one-third the cost of filling a cavity
- Community Water Fluoridation
 - \$1 invested in community water fluoridation saves \$40-\$50 in averted costs
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognized community water fluoridation as one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of 20th Century
 - Grand Rapids was the birthplace of community water fluoridation



Public Policy Priorities

- Expand Healthy Kids Dental to all children enrolled in Medicaid in Michigan
- Make a dental screening a kindergarten entrance requirement
- Ensure that pregnant women understand the importance of, and have access to, dental care
- Provide high-quality oral health education for pre-K and elementary school children



Public Policy Priorities

- Make oral health care more accessible, especially for at-risk populations (examples: low-income, seniors, veterans, homeless)
- Raise awareness among students and parents about the advantages of reducing consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages
- Support science-based programs known to prevent oral disease, such as sealants and community water fluoridation



Corporate Citizenship/Philanthropy

Brush!

Goal: To increase school readiness by reducing the number of children who enter kindergarten with dental decay

- Weekly classroom oral health lessons, training for pre-school educators, monthly parent newsletters and weekly text messaging
- About 23,000 Head Start children in Michigan currently receive this program (including all Wayne County Head Start students)
- 1,125 teachers have been trained and about 34,000 parents/caregivers have been engaged.



Corporate Citizenship/Philanthropy

- **University of Detroit Mercy Dental School's School-Based Oral Health Program**
 - Delta Dental Foundation has committed \$584,000 to purchase a new mobile dental coach and four portable dental treatment chairs



Corporate Citizenship/Philanthropy

University of Michigan Dental School Special Needs Clinic

- Delta Dental Foundation has committed \$2 million to the creation of an inter-professional special needs dental clinic
- Will serve wide variety of special needs including children with autism and craniofacial deformities, children and adults with physical disabilities, veterans with PTSD, etc.
- Patients at the clinic will also receive social work and health care services



Corporate Citizenship/Philanthropy

Michigan Department of Community Health

- \$265,000 in 2014 to support three programs:
 - Community water fluoridation projects
 - SEAL! Michigan program which provides dental sealants to school children across the state
 - Tobacco cessation pilot program





